

Message Text

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2. WE ARE VOLUNTEERING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL SINCE, ALTHOUGH IT IS THE POOREST AND MOST UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA, BOLIVIA NONETHELESS HAS SOME SURPRISINGLY COMPETENT PEOPLE WORKING IN SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST OUTSTANDING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS.

A) COSMIC RAY OBSERVATORY AT CHACALTAYA MOUNTAIN WHICH IS PART OF INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES FISICAS OF UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRES. CHIEF OF RESEARCH IS DR CARLOS AGUIRRE. THE OBSERVATORY AT CHACALTAYA IS FOR RESEARCH ON EFFECTS AND BEHAVIOR OF COSMIC RAYS. THE INSTITUTIO ALSO DOES RESEARCH IN MINERAL PROCESSING PROBLEMS AND METAL ALLOYS.

B) SAN CALIXTO OBSERVATORY IS A PRIVATE OGRANIZATION WHICH STUDIES SEISMIC WAVES FROM EARTH MOVEMENTS. SUPERVISOR AND RESEARCHER IS FATHER RAMON CABRE. CENTRAL OFFICE IS IN LA PAZ AND MAIN OBSERVATORY IS INSIDE OF HAUYNA POTOSI MOUNTIAN OUTSIDE LA PAZ. THIS STATIONS AND SMALLER ONES IN ZONGO VALLEY ARE ALSO USED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND EARTHQUAKES.

C) THE INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES MINERO METALURGICO (IIMM) IN ORURO DOES RESEARCH ON MINERAL CONCENTRATION, DRESSING AND VOLATILIZATION, AND RESEARCH IN INDUSTRIAL USES OF METALS SUCH AS BISMUTH. IT CURRENTLY HAS A CONTRACT FROM ANCOM TO DO COPPER

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LEACHING RESEARCH.

D) BOLIVIA - ERTS PROGRAM LOCATED IN OFFICES OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY HAS PROBABLY MOST ADVANCED SATELLITE PHOTO INTERPRETATION CAPABILITY IN SOUTH AMERICA. LANDSAT - ERTS TECHNOLOGY BEING USED IN AGRICULTURE, CENSUS AND MINERALS PROJECTS.

E) THERE ARE OTHER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS COBOEN WHICH IS OBTAINING A NUCLEAR REACTOR FROM U OF N CAROLINA AND EVEN NOW CARRIES ON RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE. ALSO THERE IS THE IONOSPHERE RESEARCH STATION AT OVEJUYO AND THE SATELLITE TRACKING STATION AT PATACAMAYA BUILT WITH SOVIET TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL HELP.

2. COMMENT: SAN CALIXTO HAS RECEIVED FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL HELP IN THE PAST FROM USCGS AND THE AIR FORCE (USAF/OSR) AND NOW IS ASSISTED BY THE US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. SEISMIC TAPES ARE SENT TO USGS IN ALBUQUERQUE. BOLIVIA-ERTS PROGRAM IS BEING ASSISTED BY AID THROUGH AGRICULTURE AND CENSUS PROJECTS AND HAS RECEIVED SOME SMALL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FROM NASA-USGS. IN YEARS PAST THE COSMIC RAY CENTER RECEIVED SOME ASSISTANCE FROM NSF THROUGH THE U OF NEW MEXICO. DUE TO ITS EXCELLENT REPUTATION AND APPARENT HIGH QUALITY OF RESEARCH THE INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES FISICAS AND/OR MORE SPECIFICALLY THE COSMIC RAY CENTER WOULD BE IDEAL ORGANIZATION TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER. THE SAME TO A LESSER EXTENT WOULD BE TRUE OF THE NUCLEAR MEDICINE RESEARCH ARM OF COBOEN. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ABOVE CAN LEAD TO BENEFITS FOR THE US AS WELL. FOR EXAMPLE, SAN CALIXTO HELPS US SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN ITS STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF EARTHQUAKE PHENOMENON AND HELPS MONITOR THIRD COUNTRY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. THE COSMIC RAY LABORATORY ADDS TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF EFFECTS AND BEHAVIOR OF COSMIC RAYS. THE PHYSICS INSTITUTE (IIF) IN COOPERATION WITH IIM MAY DEVELOP NEW MINERAL PROCESSING TECHNIQUES THAT WOULD INCREASE SUPPLY OF MINERALS TO US FROM BOLIVIA AND BE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN US MINING INDUSTRY.

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